

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

February 28, 2012

Diabetes is a chronic disease which has been increasing in prevalence in recent years and is now considered a worldwide pandemic. The consequences of this pandemic are evident in Los Angeles County, where diabetes has been one of the top 10 leading causes of death since 1997 and has also been a top leading cause of premature death (death before age 75) since 1999. Diabetes is also one of the most costly medical conditions to treat. In Los Angeles County, the direct medical costs of diabetes are estimated to be \$6.4 billion per year.

In 2007, over 9% of County residents over the age of 18 had been diagnosed with diabetes, but the true number of residents with the disease is likely far greater today. Fortunately, the majority of type 2 diabetes cases are preventable. Educating the public about lifestyle interventions such as improved diet and exercise is critical to combating this growing disease.

In response to this pandemic, the American Diabetes Association will be hosting their annual Diabetes EXPO on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Diabetes EXPO is a free, one-day program that will provide education and information

MOTION

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about diabetes prevention and treatment, healthy eating and active living to successfully manage diabetes and its devastating complications. The Diabetes EXPO will offer a comprehensive array of diabetes-related products, services and information, including free health screenings, individual consultations with medical professionals, weight-loss workshops, healthy cooking demonstrations, exercise and dance classes, exhibits, educational lectures, a family fun zone, free food and product samples, and much more. The goal of the Diabetes EXPO is to help people learn how they can live healthy, utilizing the latest information on preventing and managing diabetes and its deadly complications, to promote a happier and healthier community for everyone.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health Services, and the Department of Public Health to promote awareness amongst County staff and residents about the upcoming Diabetes EXPO; and urge all residents to become educated about diabetes and how they can prevent it and properly manage its occurrence.

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